

**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Application of : Docket: ACA 6316 P1US  
Zongchao ZHANG et al. :  
Serial No.: 10/565,549 : Examiner: Deborah D. Carr  
PCT Appln. No.: PCT/EP2004/008008 : Group Art Unit: 1621  
Int. Filing Date: July 16, 2004 : Confirmation No.: 2100  
For: METAL ION EXCHANGED SOLID MATERIALS:  
AS CATALYSTS FOR THE ARYLATION AND THE :  
SKELETAL ISOMERIZATION OF FATTY ACIDS :  
AND ALKYL ESTERS THEREOF :  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE**  
**UNITED STATES UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131**

Sir:

1. This declaration is to establish the completion of the invention in the United States at a date prior to May 29, 2003, that is the effective date of the prior art patent application publication no. US 2003/0100780 by Zhang et al. for qualifying as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), that was cited by the examiner.
2. To establish the date of completion of the invention of this application, an email correspondence dated March 26, 2003, which includes an attached document referred to as "an updated disclosure for the Arylation of oleic acid with aromatics," is attached hereto. The attached disclosure, titled, "Addition of aromatics to unsaturated fatty acids and fatty acid isomerization," lists examples of the invention that correspond to examples identified in the present application. Specifically, the examples set forth tests conducted in accordance with embodiments of the invention for processes for the arylation and isomerization of unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters to their

aryl branched counterparts which comprises arylating and isomerizing a feedstock in the presence of at least one acidic zeolite catalyst.

3. From these documents, it can be seen that the invention in this application was made at least by the date of March 26, 2003, which is prior to the publication date of patent application publication US 2003/0100780, namely May 29, 2003.
4. This Declaration is submitted with the first response after the first non-final Office Action.
5. As a person signing below, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

6. A. Full name of first inventor Zongchao Zhang

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